

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-22 have been amended in several particulars for purposes of clarity and brevity that are unrelated to patentability and prior art rejections in accordance with current Office policy, to further define Applicants' disclosed invention and to assist the Examiner to expedite compact prosecution of the instant application.

Claims 17-22 have been objected to because of an informality listed on page 2 of the Office action. In response thereto, claim 17 has been amended to overcome this objection.

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Geary, U.S. Patent No. 6,070,160, in view of Gilmour, U.S. Patent No. 6,405,197. In support of this rejection, the Examiner basically asserts that Geary '160, as a primary reference, discloses all the claimed features, except for "receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area." However, the Examiner cites column 28, lines 19-28; and column 29, lines 26-32 of Gilmour '197, as a secondary reference, for disclosing this feature in order to support an assertion that "it would have been obvious ... to have modified Geary to include 'receiving at least one example item for the one organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area."

This rejection is respectfully traversed, however. Applicants respectfully submit that features of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Geary '160 and Gilmour '197, whether taken individually or in combination with any other

references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to an interactive method (software installed in a computer system) and mechanism to automatically find and organize items such as files, emails, tasks, contacts, appointments and web-pages that are similar to example (prototypical) items designated by a user. See independent claims 1, 9 and 17. Such an interactive method and mechanism as generally defined in each of Applicants' independent claims 1, 9 and 17 requires, *inter alia*, receiving at least one example item for an organization instance designated by a user ... placed in [a] related group area; searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least one item in said related group area based on a predetermined criterion, and placing located items in [a] suggestions group area; modifying said predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one of said group areas to another of said group areas; and continually searching said database to locate and place additional items in said suggestions group area which are related to said at least one item in said related group area based upon said modified predetermined criterion.

In other words, such an interactive method and mechanism of Applicants' claims 1-22 is able to allow the user to group or designate one or more example (phototypical) items in a related group area in order to search (via query) a database and provide suggestions for items that are "similar" to the one or more example items in the related group area.

In contrast to Applicants' claims 1-22, Geary '160, as a primary reference,

discloses a computer system as shown in FIG. 3 having a program 200 configured for searching works that are non-deterministic and subjective in nature, such as art, music, film, dance, theatre and other subjective work in such a way that a customer may locate an art work, for example, according to limited information such as an artist's name, a certain style etc. According to Geary '160, a series of search engines as shown in FIG. 12 are programmed to rely on both deterministic and fuzzy logic, and search terms are adapted by methods such as exchange them synonyms, truncation, swapping information between fields searched, searching by key words, use of complex indices to rapidly move between different databases, and to broaden the scope of a search and to find elusive relationships between otherwise unrelated fields in different databases, and to selective ignore or modify search terms that narrow a search excessively.

In addition to what the Examiner has expressly admitted that Geary '160 does **not** disclose "receiving at least one example item for the organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area," Geary '160 does **not** disclose provide different group areas for an organization instance, i.e., a related group area, a not-related group area and a suggestion group area as alleged by the Examiner on column 2, lines 24-33; column 10, line 55-64 and column 14, lines 55-58, Geary '160.

Specifically, the cited column 2, lines 24-33, Geary '160 refers to a summary of "a search method and apparatus for conducting both a deterministic search and fuzzy logic search of databases, and to provide for high speed searching of databases identifying important parameters related to works of non-deterministic, subjective nature." No disclosure of any "related group area" for an organization

instance identified in each of Applicants' independent claims 1, 9 and 19, and shown in FIG. 3 Applicants' disclosure.

Similarly, column 14, lines 55-58, Geary '160 refers to "a linking database 562 [shown in FIG. 4] ... created for linking unrelated information from the databases 552, 556 ... the contents of each field 564A, 564B of a record 566A, 566B, 566C of the database 562 may contain reference numbers 563A, 563B respectively, thus establishing a linking relationship between two records." While Geary '160 makes reference to the linking of "unrelated information from the databases", there is **no** disclosure of any "not related group area for an organization instance" that contains "one or more items" as identified in each of Applicants' independent claims 1, 9 and 19, and shown in FIG. 3 of Applicants' disclosure.

Likewise, column 10, lines 55-64, Geary '160 refers to the use of "telemarketing 228 ... for exporting a list of subscribers, while set 290 may permit a user to determine which telemarketing group may be invoked for a campaign. Groups may be selected by demographics, regions, buying habits, locations, interests, time zone or the like. Such groups ... may be exported to an output device 70." Again, while Geary '160 makes reference to grouping, there is **no** disclosure of any "suggestion group area for an organization instance" that contains "items" as identified in each of Applicants' independent claims 1, 9 and 19, and shown in FIG. 3 of Applicants' disclosure.

As a secondary reference, Gilmour '197 discloses a knowledge management system as shown in FIG. 1 including a knowledge site management server 27 (see FIG. 2) and a knowledge access server 26 (see FIG. 3) for constructing and displaying an entity profile constructed utilizing input from entities other than the

owner. This knowledge management system as described by Gilmour '197 has nothing to do with any user interactive technique to automatically find and organize items that are "similar" to one or more example (phototypical) items designated by a user.

Nevertheless, the Examiner cites the Abstract; column 28, lines 19-28; and column 29, lines 26-32 of Gilmour '197 for allegedly disclosing Applicants' claimed "receiving at least one example item for the organization instance provided by a user, the at least one example item being placed in the related group area."

However, the Abstract of Gilmour '197 refers to the same knowledge management system and method of constructing a profile comprising terms indicative of a characteristic of an entity. Column 28, lines 19-28, Gilmour '197 describes that,

"it may be that the electronic document submitted by the interactive user at step 802 is the first submission of an electronic document to be utilized in the construction of a profile for the specific entity. In such a case, a mailbox for the third party may not as yet the existence. Nonetheless, in this case, the interactive user provides identify information that may be utilized to construct a mailbox."

As described by Gilmour '197, electronic document is used to build a profile of an entity as normally expected in typical knowledge management systems.

However, this information does not and cannot be interpreted to read on Applicants' claimed "receiving at least one example [data] items for an organization instance provided by a user ... placed in the related group area."

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of

ordinary skilled in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and **not** based on Applicants' disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See MPEP 2143. In other words, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." In re Wilson, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USQP 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

As pointed out, the Examiner has seemingly ignored to treat the claim invention as a whole, failed to consider all the key limitations of claims 1-22, and failed to provide any suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skilled in the art, to modify Gilmour '197 into Geary '160 in order to arrive at Applicants' claims 1-22. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-22 be withdrawn.

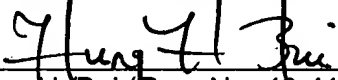
In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **amend** claims 1-22, as follows:

1 1. (Amended) A method of automatically finding and organizing items
2 similar to example items provided by a user in a computer system, said method
3 comprising:
4 providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for ~~one~~an
5 organization instance, each of these areas to contain items;
6 receiving at least one example item for said ~~one~~—organization instance
7 provided by a user, said at least one example item being placed in said related group
8 area;
9 searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least
10 one item in said related group area based on a predetermined criterion, and placing
11 ~~said located at least one item~~ items in said suggestions group area;
12 modifying said predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user
13 providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one
14 of said group areas to another of said group areas; and
15 continually searching said database to locate and place additional items in
16 said suggestions group area which are related to said at least one item in said
17 related group area based upon said modified predetermined criterion.

1 **2. (Amended)** The method ofas claimed in claim 1, wherein said
2 predetermined criterion comprises assigning a normalized relevance score for each
3 item based on each item's relevance to said at least one item in said related group
4 area and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a
5 predetermined threshold are placed in said suggestions group area.

1 **3. (Amended)** The method ofas claimed in claim 1, further comprising
2 providing a user interface including visual representations of said related, not related,
3 and suggestions group areas, each visual representation of an area including a
4 visual representation of items contained therein.

1 **4. (Amended)** The method ofas claimed in claim 3, wherein said user
2 selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via said user
3 interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation
4 of said one group area to a visual representation of said another group area.

1 **5. (Amended)** The method ofas claimed in claim 4, wherein said user
2 interface comprises a graphical user interface and said visual representations of said
3 group areas each comprises a pane on a display.

1 **6. (Amended)** The method ofas claimed in claim 5, wherein said user
2 selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via said user
3 interface by dragging a visual representation of the item from a pane of said one
4 group area to a pane of said another group area.

1 7. (Amended) The method ~~of~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said
2 items ~~comprises a document~~indicates one of a file, an email, and a mail item such as
3 a task, a note, contact information and a web page.

1 8. (Amended) The method ~~of~~as claimed in claim 1, further comprising
2 providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for at least ~~one~~
3 ~~other~~another organization instance and further comprising modifying said
4 predetermined criterion based on the user moving an item from said related group
5 area of said ~~at least one other~~another organization instance to said not related group
6 area of said ~~one~~ organization instance or from said not related group area of said at
7 ~~least one other~~another organization instance to said related group area of said ~~one~~
8 organization instance or from said suggestions group area of said ~~at least one~~
9 ~~other~~another organization instance to said related or not related group areas of said
10 ~~one~~ organization instance.

1 9. (Amended) A ~~tangible~~storage medium ~~embodying to store~~ a computer
2 program, ~~the program for~~ automatically finding and organizing items similar to
3 example items that, when executed by a machine, resulting in the following and
4 comprising:

5 providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for ~~one~~an
6 organization instance, each of these areas to contain items;

7 receiving at least one example item for said ~~one~~ organization instance
8 provided by a user, said at least one example item being placed in said related group
9 area;

10 searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least
11 one item in said related group area based on a predetermined criterion, and placing
12 ~~said located at least one item~~ items in said suggestions group area;

13 modifying said predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user
14 providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one
15 of said group areas to another of said group areas; and

16 continually searching said database to locate and place additional items in
17 said suggestions group area which are related to said at least one item in said
18 ~~related group area~~ based upon said modified predetermined criterion.

1 **10. (Amended)** The storage medium of as claimed in claim 9, wherein
2 said predetermined criterion comprises assigning a normalized relevance score for
3 each item based on each item's relevance to said at least one item in said related
4 group area and wherein located items having a relevance score greater than a
5 predetermined threshold are placed in said suggestions group area.

1 **11. (Amended)** The storage medium of as claimed in claim 9, further
2 comprising providing a user interface including visual representations of said related,
3 not related, and suggestions group areas, each visual representation of an area
4 including a visual representation of items contained therein.

1 **12. (Amended)** The storage medium of~~as~~ claimed in claim **11**, wherein
2 said user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via
3 said user interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual
4 representation of said one group area to a visual representation of said another
5 group area.

1 **13. (Amended)** The storage medium of~~as~~ claimed in claim **12**, wherein
2 said user interface comprises a graphical user interface and said visual
3 representations of said group areas each comprises a pane on a display.

1 **14. (Amended)** The storage medium of~~as~~ claimed in claim **13**, wherein
2 said user selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via
3 said user interface by dragging a visual representation of the item from a pane of
4 said one group area to a pane of said another group area.

1 **15. (Amended)** The storage medium of~~as~~ claimed in claim **9**, wherein
2 each of said items ~~comprises a document~~ indicates one of a file, an email, and a mail
3 item such as a task, a note, contact information and a web page.

1 **16. (Amended)** The storage medium of~~as~~ claimed in claim **9**, further
2 comprising providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for at least
3 ~~one other~~ another organization instance and further comprising modifying said
4 predetermined criterion based on the user moving an item from said related group
5 area of said ~~at least one other~~ another organization instance to said not related group

6 area of said ~~one~~ organization instance or from said not related group area of said at
7 ~~least one other~~ another organization instance to said related group area of said ~~one~~
8 organization instance or from said suggestions group area of said ~~at least one other~~
9 another organization instance to said related or not related group areas of said ~~one~~
10 organization instance.

1 **17. (Amended)** A method of automatically finding and organizing items
2 similar to example items provided by a user in a computer system, comprising:
3 providing related, not related, and suggestions group areas for ~~one~~ an
4 organization instance, each of these areas to contain items;
5 receiving at least one example item for said ~~one~~ organization instance
6 provided by a user, said at least one example item being placed in said related group
7 area of said ~~one~~ organization instance;
8 searching a database to locate at least one item which is related to at least
9 one item in said related group area based on a predetermined criterion and placing
10 said located at least one item in said suggestions group area of said ~~one~~
11 organization instance, wherein said predetermined criterion comprises assigning a
12 normalized relevance score for each item based on each item's relevance to said at
13 least one item in said related group area and wherein located items having a
14 relevance score greater than a predetermined threshold are placed in said
15 suggestions group area;
16 modifying said predetermined criterion based on at least one of the user
17 providing at least one additional example item and the user moving an item from one
18 of said group areas to another of said group areas and the user moving an item

19 from a related, not related or suggestions group area of another organization
20 instance to one group area of said ~~one~~-organization instance; and
21 continually searching said database to locate and place additional items in
22 said suggestions group area of said ~~one~~-organization instance which are related to
23 said at least one item in said related group area based upon said modified
24 predetermined criterion.

1 **18. (Amended)** The method ~~of~~as claimed in claim 17, further comprising
2 providing a user interface including visual representations of said related, not related,
3 and suggestions group areas, each visual representation of an area including a
4 visual representation of items contained therein.

1 **19. (Amended)** The method ~~of~~as claimed in claim 18, wherein said user
2 selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via said user
3 interface by moving a visual representation of the item from a visual representation
4 of said one group area to a visual representation of said another group area.

1 **20. (Amended)** The method ~~of~~as claimed in claim 19, wherein said user
2 interface comprises a graphical user interface and said visual representations of said
3 group areas each comprises a pane on a display.

1 **21. (Amended)** The method ~~of~~as claimed in claim 20, wherein said user
2 selectively moves an item from one group area to another group area via said user

3 interface by dragging a visual representation of the item from a pane of said one
4 group area to a pane of said another group area.

1 **22. (Amended)** The method ~~of~~as claimed in claim 18, wherein each of
2 said items ~~comprises a document~~indicates one of a file, an email, and a mail item
3 such as a task, a note, contact information and a web page.